

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of September 5, 2006, and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error and to incorporate features of claims 25 and 26.

Accordingly, claim 25 has been amended and claim 26 has been canceled.

Claim 27 has been canceled thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of that claim under 35 U.S.C. 112.

New claim 30, which corresponds to claim 18, has been added.

Therefore, claims 18-24, and 28-30 remain for consideration.

The Examiner has rejected claims 18-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Walsh et al. (6,802,857, hereafter "Walsh") in view of Spillman, Jr. et al. (6,206,835, hereafter "Spillman").

The claims now presented define an invention that is structurally distinguished over

Walsh and Spillman, taken singly or in combination as will be discussed hereafter.

As discussed in paragraph 54 of the present application, if an arrhythmia originates from an identified location in a pulmonary vein, it is desirable to form a circumferential conduction block along a path of the wall tissue that either includes the arrhythmogenic origin, thereby eliminating the source, or forming the block between the origin and the left atrium, thereby preventing conduction of unwanted signals. To achieve this, the claimed invention provides a system for electrically isolating a cardiac chamber including a stent and a resonant circuit incorporated in the stent. The stent and the resonant circuit form a body in the shape of a ring, wherein the ring includes a capacitor core and an inductor coil wound around the capacitor core. This configuration is clearly illustrated in Fig. 3.

In contrast, Walsh discloses a stent 12 having a conducting wire 20 shaped into a generally helical cylindrical structure, thereby forming an inductor 14. The stent has two capacitors 16: one at each end of the inductor. (See column 3, line 64 - column 4 line 12). As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, the wire is wound between the two capacitors. It follows that Walsh does not teach or suggest a stent having a capacitor core and an inductor coil wound around the capacitor core as required by the claimed invention.

Spillman was cited by the Examiner for disclosure of a sensor system 68, which can sense changes in blood pressure... and can detect other parameters (col. 7:47-48). However, Spillman also does not teach or suggest a stent having a capacitor core and an inductor coil wound around

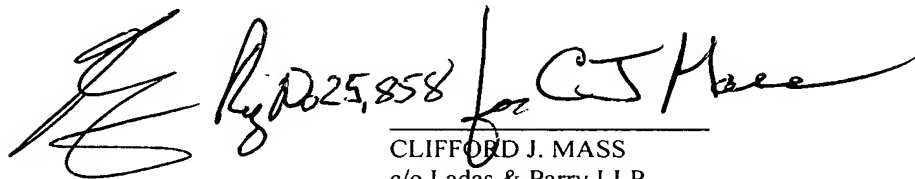
the capacitor core as required by the claimed invention.

Inasmuch as neither Walsh nor Spillman disclose the claimed capacitor core with inductor coil therearound, their combination cannot, either.

New claim 30 corresponds to claim 18 for corresponding allowability.

In view of the above action and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now all in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifford J. Mass", is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, the text "Reg. No. 25,858" is handwritten.

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